

GRAND CANAL OF VENICE NOT POPULAR AS OF YORE

Only Few Gondolas Remain in Use,
Owing to Terror Inspired
by Bomb Raids.

TRAVELERS SEE MANY CHANGES

Quays Lined With Soldiers and Sailors, While Launches From Warships Dart In and Out Among Picturesque Boats.

VENICE, December 25.—Take a gondola for a trip through the Grand Canal during these war days, and one sees many changes in the centers of interest well known to travelers and readers—the war dress of the homes of Lord Byron and the composer, Wagner; of the poet, Browning, and the American writer, W. D. Howells; the romantic palace, where Desdemona waited for Othello, and, further along, in the market square near the Rialto Bridge, the house of Shylock, the quiet building standing there unchanged to-day, but now used as a butcher's shop, where a lusty Italian butcher exacts Shylock war prices of 50 cents a kilo for the pounds of flesh dealt over the counter.

Starting from the quay San Marco, the broad lagoons entering the Grand Canal have an air of martial and naval preparation, rather than the usual civil aspect which marks this center. The quays are lined with soldiers and sailors, and the gondolas are carrying great loads of war supplies back and forth, and transporting troops and machines from point to point, while the launches from the warships dart in and out among the gondolas.

Originally, there are 2,000 gondolas in regular service—600 private and 1,400 public—but only a very few of these remain in use, owing to the terror inspired by the bomb raids. Most of the wealthy residents have hurriedly left for the south, and there are no tourists to make use of the public gondolas. Only one first-class hotel remains open, and half of it is given over to a hospital for the wounded brought in from the nearby fighting lines.

Palaces often occupied

by prominent Americans. On the left of the canal is a row of palaces often occupied by prominent American families. Two of these, the Palazzo Balbi-Valler and the Polignac, are closed and closely shuttered, while most of the others in the quarter are partially abandoned. Opposite the Palazzo Balbi-Valler, where W. D. Howells lived while he wrote his scenes from Venetian life. It is one of the few places still showing life and activity, and the well-kept gardens are full of flowers, which hang into the canal, flanking it in front and along one side. Just across the Grand Canal is the Palazzo Rezzonico, where Robert Browning lived and died. Usually this is a very gay quarter, with crowds of gondolas passing, and the palaces alive with brilliant entertainment. But now all is silent and lugubrious, and the few gondolas creep along like Indian canoes on a deserted river.

One touch of life has been given to this quarter by some American artists, who have pulled down an old palace and built a very showy front reaching down to the water. The bright yellow and red are in marked contrast with the somber palaces all around. The military escort accompanying the party pointed out an abandoned garden with a fine old palace built only to the first story.

"There is a story there," said the military escort. "That palace was begun by a son of one of the doges. But the son got to gambling, lost all his money and mortgaged the palace, yet unfinished. And so the old doge ordered that all work on the palace should be stopped, and never again started, as an everlasting warning against gambling. And there it stands to-day, after the years, just as it stood when work was stopped, still giving its warning."

Further along on the left is the gray, stone building used as the Austrian embassy, until Italy declared war against Austria. The Austrian flag, which used to hang from the balcony, stretches over the canal, but the place is deserted. Up a side canal is the former Russian embassy, also deserted. Here, too, one of the most active centers of entertainment and official exchange during peace times.

Bridges now at work

cleaning up inside canals. In front of the former German embassy, bridges are now at work cleaning up the war canals. This is a somewhat early time, only 200 years ago the Grand Canal, and every twenty years in the side canals. The present absence of traffic has given opportunity for this scouring. Great masses of black mud are brought up and carried out to sea. All the sewage of Venice empties into these canals, but the tides of the Adriatic sweep out the sewage and keep the city in a reasonably healthy condition.

In the market section of the city the Grand Canal shows its usual activity, with the fish and vegetable markets surrounded by boats and crowded with customers. Venice has recently finished a vegetable palace for its fish market, and the military escort told how this had come about.

"The queen came here about five years ago," said he. "She was shown the beauties of the Grand Canal, and admired them greatly—all except the old fish market. She declared that was filthy and a scandal. And so the city decided to spend 1,000,000 francs for a new market. And yet the queen has never since come here to see this building erected to meet her taste, and Venice is beginning to ask whether it was really worth while to spend so much money to meet a woman's whim."

of the busy merchant quarter. This famous bridge is the only one known to have been made stronger by increasing its weight. It began to crack at the outset, and the architect said add more weight.

Bazaars and stores were, therefore, added all along the bridge, greatly increasing its weight, and this so steadied it that it stands secure to-day. One of the bomb raids was in this vicinity, and the people crowded the bridge and quays watching the aircraft as it dropped its bombs. One of them was the bomb which destroyed the famous Scalzi Church, near-by.

The house of Shylock, not far from the Rialto Bridge, is a small two-story, rough stone structure. The first floor is now a butcher shop. A price list of meat hung back of the butcher's stalls, the prices being fixed by the city. They showed the effect of war stringency in meat. Beefsteak was set down at 50 cents a kilo, and beef and mutton at 60 to 80 cents. The cause of this, the butcher explained, was that the army used so much meat. The butcher was very suspicious while his price list was being examined, and finally said:

"Are you German? We have to be on the lookout always for Germans."

MARKETS AND STORES SHOW

WAR PRICES PREVAILING

The markets and stores in the vicinity showed war prices prevailing everywhere owing to the military demand, except on some vegetables and fruit. Cauliflower was 6 cents, turnips 6 cents a kilo, potatoes 3 cents a kilo. Apples and pears were from 10 to 70 centimes a kilo. Eggs were 2 cents each—quite cheap. Butter was high, and beans particularly high, because the supply from Galicia has been cut off by the war.

The working classes continue to get meals at reasonably cheap rates, owing to orders given by the city authorities. Shops for the poor are selling soup at 2 cents a plate, and with bread, 3 cents. A big slice of maize cake is 1 cent, and with baked fish, 2 cents. The price of bread is kept down by municipal regulations, and the quality of the bread kept up.

King Victor Emmanuel went into one of the bread shops not long ago. It was soon whispered about that this was the King, and the proprietor of the shop hastily looked up some very fine bread, which he spread before His Majesty.

"And why this superior bread?" said the King.

"Because you are the King," said the astonished shopman.

"But in the matter of bread the King and the people are all the same," replied King Victor sternly. "You have offended against the law which requires all bread to be of equal quality, and you are ordered to pay a fine of 500 lire for the offense."

War signs are evident in the fish market near-by. All fishing in the Adriatic has been suspended, owing to the fear of submarines, and also to prevent fishermen from having any chance to communicate with the nearby enemy. Fishing is therefore confined to the inshore and lagoons, and prices have soared—about 30 cents a kilo for the fine grades of fish down to as little as 10 cents a kilo for poor grades and minnows, which are boiled in bulk. The city has even made provision for the school children to get hot meals during war times, and shops are provided, selling hot potatoes and hot chestnuts.

Altogether, Venice, in its war dress, shows the plain effect of the strain it is under in being the center of the war zone, but the people are not suffering, supplies are adequate—though at considerably advanced prices—and the spirit of the people shows in the enthusiasm of the soldiers for pressing the war until victory is secured.

STRUCK BY HORSE'S HEAD.

BOY'S NECK IS BROKEN

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BOWLING GREEN, VA., December 25.—A boy named Hockaday, who lived in Spotsylvania County, was instantly killed at Bowling Green on Thursday, when his horse, which was tied with a small rope, became frightened at an automobile driven by Dr. Flegenheimer. The boy went to his horse to quiet him, and as he got up to him, the rope broke, and the horse's head struck the boy, breaking his neck. An inquest was held which showed that it was entirely an accident.

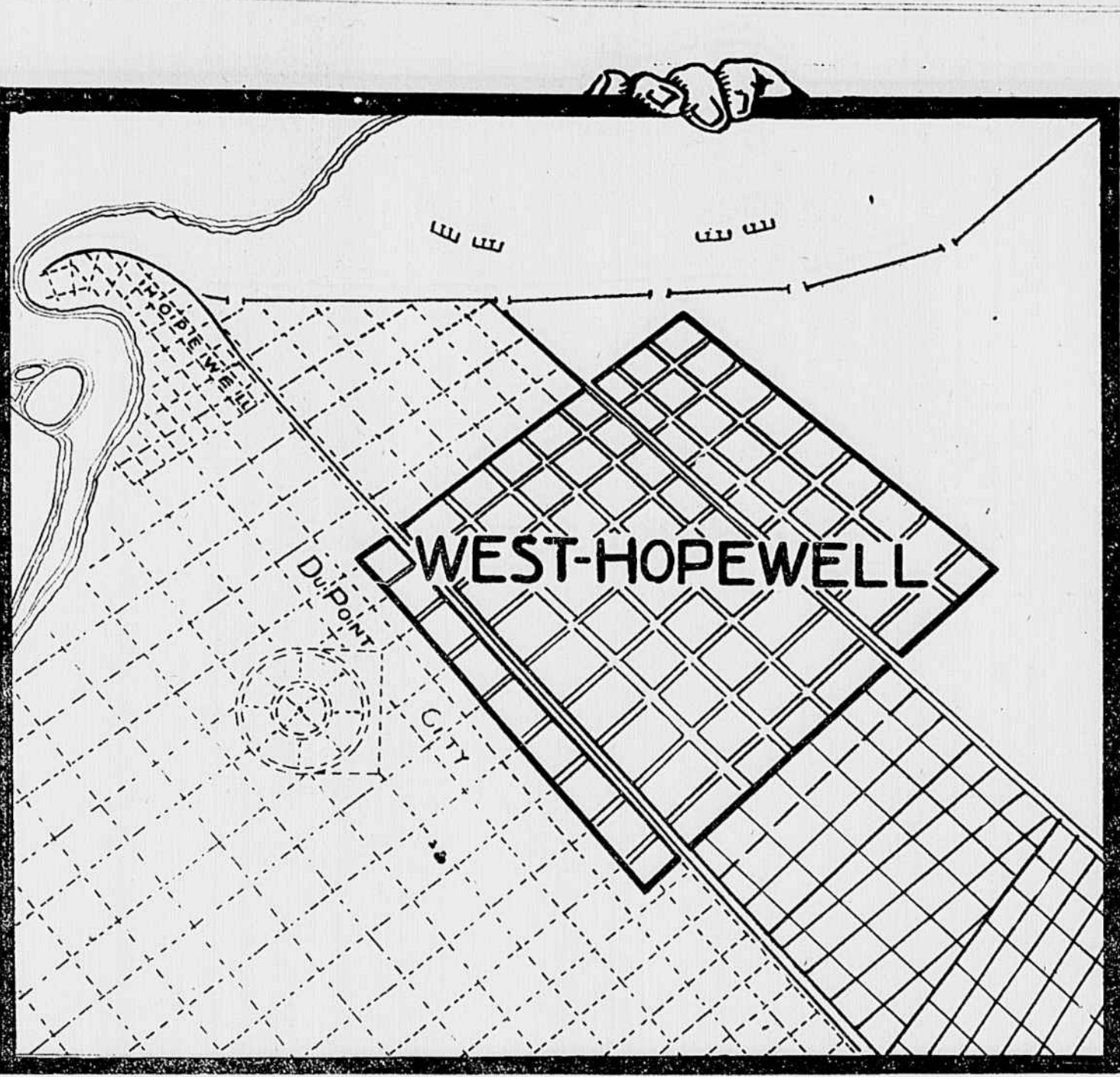
TRENCH FIGHTING BRINGS DISEASES

Maladies That Are Painful and
Lasting Are Often Contracted
While Fighting.

Similar Cases Are Found Here
in Richmond.

The lot of a soldier who must stand up all day in a wet trench and fight is not much different from the life of a civilian and woman here in Richmond. We must fight just as great enemies as they, our foe is disease, and it must be said that he is now on the run. Our systems are used roughly by our present method of living, and unless something is taken that will bring immediate relief, a great deal of suffering is due to follow. In Richmond the people are waging a war to the finish against disease, and with Tanlac as the weapon they are rapidly winning. But there are too many cases here that need attention for us to be "out of the trenches by Christmas." One of the cases who is now well is Charles J. Gibson, living at 508 East Clay Street, Richmond. He recently told the Tanlac representative here, Mr. Prince, of his relief as follows: "I had a heavy feeling in my stomach and gas constantly formed. I had a dizziness in my head and headache, and the sharp pains in my chest and stomach made me feel grouchy. I felt the need of something to boost me up, as I was very nervous at times. A friend who had used Tanlac recommended to me, and since taking it I feel a great relief. My appetite is fine, and I can eat anything. My digestion is fine, and I am not troubled with gas on my stomach. Tanlac has braced me up, and I feel much more like working. It is the best tonic I have ever tried, and I am glad to recommend it, feeling that since it has helped me, it will help others, too."

Are you one of those who are bowled down by sickness? Help is here. Go today to one of the Bulkley, Drug Stores and get a bottle of Tanlac and you will chalk up another victory against disease. Mr. Prince is always at the Broad and Third Street store to explain Tanlac to anyone. Price, \$1 per bottle.—Advertisement.



West-Hopewell Ready for Business

AND Business is likewise ready for West-Hopewell. Several business institutions are planning to open immediately, as soon as sites are secured, including lumber yards, building supplies, hardware, grocery and drug stores. West-Hopewell is located amidst the fastest growing section of the fastest growing city in the world. The property occupies a strategic position regarding traffic, and is the keystone location for all lines of business in every direction.

Two Permanent Railroad Stations for Two Different Railroads are Located in West-Hopewell for Passenger and Freight Traffic.

Certain streets are set aside for business sites, while others will be used for residential purposes. A "West-Hopewellite" will reach his work at Du Pont's by trolley in 8 to 10 minutes, and at the lowest commutation cost. If you are looking for a home site or seeking an investment in or near Hopewell, watch for further announcement in to-morrow's paper.

SALE OPENS MONDAY,
DECEMBER 27TH.

Please Read This Announcement

WITH the advent of the through traffic take this opportunity of announcing "WEST-HOPEWELL" which is situated between the Petersburg and Appomattox Electric and Appomattox River, directly adjacent to the Appomattox River.

Here is your opportunity to visit Hopewell during wonderful money-making possibilities. Fortunes share? These opportunities will soon pass and pass by time when I could have bought such and such for

West-Hopewell Will Be Morning, December 27th

